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of their magisterial work. The Quilon Tahsildar has been relieved wholly of his magisterial work by the appointment of a Stationary First Class Magistrate at Quilon. The Neyyattinkara Tahsildar has also been similarly relieved, by shifting the Parassala Magistrate's Court to Neyyattinkara and giving it jurisdiction over the whole taluk. Similarly, the Agastiswaram Tahsildar is being relieved of his magisterial work by the Kottar Magistrate being given jurisdiction over the whole taluk. The jurisdiction of the Kayankulam Sub-Magistrate has been enlarged, some relief being given thereby to the Tahsildars of Kartigapally and Karunagapally. Action is also being taken to enlarge the jurisdiction of the Tiruvattar and Colachel Magistrates, so as to give some relief to the Tahsildars of Vilavancode, Kalkulam and Eraniel. Government *are* pursuing the policy of giving relief—in the magisterial branch—to such of the Tahsildars as are considered to require such relief, and all this is being done with as little of extra expenditure as possible to the State. The proposal of Mr. Parameswaran Pillai to provide a Stationary Magistrate's Court at Attungal will be enquired into.

*Appointment of Honorary Magistrates in towns.*

*Mr. H. Mahadeva Iyer* (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Trivandrum) suggested the desirability of appointing Honorary Magistrates in all the towns. He said that the subject had been brought forward at the third session of the Assembly and that a favourable reply was then given. But no further steps had since been taken in that direction. With the passing of the new Bill for amending the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation, the subordinates of the Sanitary department would be invested with the powers of Police officers for taking cognisance of offences under the Regulation. As the efficient administration of the law depended on the prompt disposal of cases, and as the resort to the existing Magistracy with their regular work would be tardy, the creation of Honorary Magistrates in different parts of the town with summary powers to dispose of petty offences under special and local laws would be of great advantage. It would then be possible for the regular Magistracy to devote their exclusive attention towards the consideration of the graver offences. Should it be considered that in any places the present Magistrates had not enough work to do, their territorial jurisdiction might be increased wherever necessary and the number of the paid Magistracy reduced, so as to leave a saving to Government. Much of the success of the measure no doubt depended on the competency of the men to be selected as Honorary Magistrates. The persons most eligible for such appointments would be

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the class of retired officials, who had been Judges and Magistrates while in office and who are permanent residents of the towns. They would be fully conversant with the nature and habits of the people around them, and by their social position, would be able to exercise a wholesome influence on occasions of public unrest and unseemly riots of the kind that occurred recently. He also added that the measure suggested was likely to be a better preventive than the quartering of punitive police, the burden of which would fall mostly on inoffensive and unoffending people.

*Dewans' reply.*—The suggestion will be considered.

29. *Police reform.*

*Mr. A. Krishna Pillai* (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the question of Police reform had been brought up at the Assembly in all its previous sittings, and in view of the importance of the subject, Government had recently done something in that direction by increasing the salaries of policemen. Increase of salary would no doubt attract a better class of men to the department and thereby give a high tone to it. But, he thought, there were other important directions in which reform was needed. The investigating officers, *viz.*, the Station House Officers, should belong to a better class of men than the one to which they now belonged, and they should at least be men who have passed the Matriculation Examination of some University. A system of Panchayets might also be instituted and the Station House Officers required to make the investigation in consultation with the Panchayets. The records of enquiry, such as mahazars, etc., should be attested by two members of the Panchayet. The detective side of the Police had to be developed and the officers given some sort of training in detection. It would also be desirable to enforce a system of night patrol.

*Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai* (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) said that, though the people were thankful to Government for the small beginnings recently made for reforming the Police department, there was still much scope for further improvement. It was a regrettable circumstance that, instead of being the protectors of person and property, the policemen very often themselves assumed the position of aggressors. The Member then gave particulars of some cases of the kind which occurred in the Kottarakara taluk to support his statement and said that it was the special request of the people of the taluk that the high-handed action of the local police should be brought to the notice of Government. There was at present no security of person or property in the taluk and the people were spend-

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